

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for generating an order in an electronic marketplace, the system comprising:

one or more databases coupled with a plurality of seller computer systems, the one or more databases storing transactional data;

a server system coupled with the one or more databases, the server system ~~operable~~ configured to:

receive from at least one of the plurality of seller computer systems one or more offers, and store the one or more offers as transactional data in the one or more databases, the one or more offers reflecting values specified ~~in the one or more offers~~ for a plurality of seller offer variables;

a buyer computer system coupled with the server system, the buyer computer system ~~operable~~ configured to:

receive a buyer request, the buyer request comprising ~~a plurality of~~ values for a plurality of buyer offer variables;

access the one or more offers stored as transactional data in the one or more databases;

generate a display comprising:

a buyer request display comprising one or more patterns representing the buyer request, the one or more patterns of the buyer request comprising a plurality of bars, each bar representing a particular buyer offer variable and comprising a set of one or more geometric display elements, ~~wherein the buyer computer system encodes the value of~~ the particular one of the plurality of buyer offer variables encoded by the buyer computer system according to a

predefined encoding scheme,[[; and]] wherein each geometric display element in the set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented; and

an offers display of the one or more offers, the offers display comprising a plurality of patterns, each pattern of the plurality of patterns representing a particular one of the one or more offers and comprising a plurality of bars, each bar representing a particular one of the plurality of seller offer variables and comprising a set of one or more geometric display elements, ~~wherein the buyer computer system encodes the value of the particular one of the plurality of seller offer variables[[,]]~~ being encoded by the buyer computer system according to the predefined encoding scheme, wherein each geometric display element in the set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented;

compare the one or more patterns of the buyer request display with the plurality of patterns of the offers display to determine a best fit match between at least one of the plurality of patterns representing the one or more offers and the one or more patterns representing the buyer request; and

generate an order based on the best fit match and communicate the order to the server system.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the predefined encoding scheme encodes a first value of a first offer variable in a first pattern associated with a first offer and encodes a second value of the first offer variable in a second pattern associated with a second offer.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the sets of geometric display elements are encoded according to a predefined color scheme; and

each geometric display element in a set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented and the predefined color scheme for encoding the value in the set of geometric display elements, the color for a particular geometric display element being different than the colors of other geometric display elements in the same set of geometric display elements.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the one or more offers comprise offers only from seller computer systems on an approved vendor list (AVL).

34. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein a value encoded in a set of geometric display elements comprises a range of values within a predetermined range of values.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the bars are columns.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the buyer computer system is further ~~operable~~ configured to:

receive a selection of a particular pattern associated with a particular offer;

receive an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected pattern;

in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected pattern; and

communicate the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the buyer computer system is further ~~operable~~ configured to display the values specified in the buyer request and the values specified in the offer associated with the at least one selected pattern.

38. **(Currently Amended)** A method for generating an order in an electronic marketplace, comprising:

receiving, by a server, from at least one of a plurality of seller computers, one or more offers, the one or more offers reflecting values specified ~~in the one or more offers~~ for a plurality of seller offer variables;

storing, by the server, the one or more offers as transactional data in one or more databases;

receiving, by a buyer computer, a buyer request, the buyer request comprising ~~a plurality of~~ values for a plurality of buyer offer variables;

accessing, by the buyer computer, the one or more offers stored as transactional data in the one or more databases;

generating, by the buyer computer, a display comprising:

a buyer request display comprising one or more patterns representing the buyer request, the one or more patterns of the buyer request comprising a plurality of bars, each bar representing a particular buyer offer variable and comprising a set of one or more geometric display elements, ~~wherein the buyer computer encodes the value of~~ the particular one of the plurality of buyer offer variables~~[[,]]~~ being encoded by the buyer computer system according to a predefined encoding scheme~~[[; and]]~~ wherein each geometric display element in the set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented; and

an offers display of the one or more offers, the offers display comprising a plurality of patterns, each pattern of the plurality of patterns representing a particular one of the one or more offers and comprising a plurality of bars, each bar representing a particular one of the plurality of seller offer variables and comprising a set of one or more geometric display elements, ~~wherein the buyer computer encodes the value of~~ the particular one of the plurality of seller offer variables~~[[,]]~~ being encoded by the buyer computer system according to the predefined encoding scheme, wherein each geometric display element in the set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented;

comparing, by the buyer computer, the one or more patterns of the buyer request display with the plurality of patterns of the offers display to determine a best fit match between at least

one of the plurality of patterns representing the one or more offers and the one or more patterns representing the buyer request; and

generating, by the buyer computer, an order based on the best fit match and communicating the order to the server.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein the predefined encoding scheme encodes a first value of a first offer variable in a first pattern associated with a first offer and encodes a second value of the first offer variable in a second pattern associated with a second offer.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein the sets of geometric display elements are encoded according to a predefined color scheme; and

each geometric display element in a set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented and the scheme for encoding the value in the set of geometric display elements, the color for a particular geometric display element being different than the colors of other geometric display elements in the same set of geometric display elements.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein the one or more offers comprise asks only from sellers computers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

42. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein a value encoded in a set of geometric display elements comprises a range of values within a range of possible values.

43. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein the bars are columns.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, further comprising:
receiving a selection of a particular pattern associated with a particular offer;
receiving an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected pattern;
in response to the instruction, automatically generating an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected pattern; and
communicating the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, further comprising displaying the values specified in the buyer request and the values specified in the offer associated with the at least one selected pattern.

46. **(Currently Amended) Software** A computer readable medium for generating that generates an order in an electronic marketplace, the software being embodied in computer-readable media and when executed operable to the computer readable medium having executable instructions which when executed cause a computer to perform the acts comprising:

~~receive~~ receiving, by a server, from at least one of a plurality of seller computers, one or more offers, the one or more offers reflecting values specified ~~in the one or more offers~~ for a plurality of seller offer variables;

storing, by the server, the one or more offers as transactional data in one or more databases;

~~receive~~ receiving, by a buyer computer, a buyer request, the buyer request comprising a ~~plurality of~~ values for a plurality of buyer offer variables;

accessing, by the buyer computer, the one or more offers stored as transactional data in the one or more databases;

~~generate~~ generating, by the buyer computer, a display comprising:

a buyer request display comprising one or more patterns representing the buyer request, the one or more patterns of the buyer request comprising a plurality of bars, each bar representing a particular buyer offer variable and comprising a set of one or more geometric display elements, ~~wherein the buyer computer encodes the value of~~ the particular one of the plurality of buyer offer variables~~[[,]]~~ being encoded by the buyer computer system according to a predefined encoding scheme~~[[; and]]~~ wherein each geometric display element in the set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented; and

an offers display of the one or more offers, the offers display comprising a plurality of patterns, each pattern of the plurality of patterns representing a particular one of the one or more offers and comprising a plurality of bars, each bar representing a particular one of the plurality of seller offer variables and comprising a set of one or more geometric display elements, ~~wherein the buyer computer encodes the value of~~ the particular one of the plurality of seller offer variables~~[[,]]~~ being encoded by the buyer computer system according to the predefined encoding scheme, wherein each geometric display element in the set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented;

~~compare~~ comparing, by the computer, the one or more patterns of the buyer request display with the plurality of patterns of the offers display to determine a best fit match between at least one of the plurality of patterns representing the one or more offers and the one or more patterns representing the buyer request; and

~~generate~~ generating, by the computer, an order based on the best fit match and communicating the order to the server.

47. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer readable medium of Claim 46, wherein the predefined encoding scheme encodes a first value of a first offer variable in a first pattern associated with a first offer and encodes a second value of the first offer variable in a second pattern associated with a second offer.

48. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer readable medium of Claim 46, wherein the sets of geometric display elements are encoded according to a predefined color scheme; and

each geometric display element in a set of geometric display elements has a color according to the value being represented and the scheme for encoding the value in the set of geometric display elements, the color for a particular geometric display element being different than the colors of other geometric display elements in the same set of geometric display elements.

49. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer readable medium of Claim 46, wherein the one or more offers comprise asks only from sellers computers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

50. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer readable medium of Claim 46, wherein a value encoded in a set of geometric display elements comprises a range of values within a range of possible values.

51. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer readable medium of Claim 46, wherein the bars are columns.

52. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer readable medium of Claim 46, ~~further operable to~~ wherein the executed instructions further perform the acts comprising:

~~receive~~ receiving a selection of a particular pattern associated with a particular offer;

~~receive~~ receiving an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected pattern;

in response to receiving the instruction, automatically ~~generate~~ generating an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected pattern; and

~~communicate~~ communicating the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

53. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer readable medium of Claim 46, ~~further operable to display~~ wherein the executed instructions further perform the acts comprising displaying the values specified in the buyer request and the values specified in the offer associated with the at least one selected pattern.

54. **(Canceled)**